

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 06033 100205Z

14

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 OMB-01 ACDA-07 SSM-03

TRSE-00 DLOS-06 MCT-01 /120 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1554

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 6033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, XF

SUBJ: EARLY REACTIONS TO US VOTE ON EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION
ON GENEVA CONFERENCE

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL DELEGATIONS FOLLOWING VOTING ON MIDDLE EAST RESOLUTIONS, EARLY REACTIONS FOR MOST PART APPRECIATED EXPLANATION OF US VOTE AGAINST EGYPTIAN RESOLUTION. EGYPTIAN COUNSELOR TOLD MISOFF HE COULD UNDERSTAND HEAVY ISRAELI PRESSURE ON US TO VOTE AGAINST RESOLUTION AND SPECULATED THAT WITH US PLACATING ISRAEL IN THIS INSTANCE, US MIGHT BE IN BETTER POSITION TO MOVE MORE FREELY IN MONTHS AHEAD RE GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. EGYPTIAN DEL ADDED THAT USSR DESPITE "YES" VOTE WAS IN SULK ON RESOLUTION. EGYPT ASKED USSR TO COSPONSOR BUT THEY REFUSED ON BOTH SUBSTANCE (DISLIKED IMPLIED GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYG) AND PROCEDURE (DESIRED MORE EXTENSIVE ADVANCE COORDINATION).

2. CHINESE MISOFF ASKED RHETORICALLY WHY US COULD NOT HAVE ABSTAINED. HE NOTED THAT ABSTENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN SEEN BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AS A POSITIVE SIGNAL, WHEREAS NEGATIVE VOTE WOULD BE INTERPRETED AS ABSENCE OF WILLINGNESS BY US TO ACCEPT CHANGING CONDITIONS. CHINESE MISOFF QUERIED WHETHER US HAD INSIDE INFORMATION TO EXPLAIN SYG WALDHEIM'S SEEMING OPTIMISM FOR MATERIALIZATION OF GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE; HE ADDED PLACIDLY THAT SYG NOW
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PAGE 02 USUN N 06033 100205Z

SEEMS TO HAVE INCREASED TASKS IN WEEKS AHEAD IN

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION.

3. FRENCH AND UK DELS POINTED OUT THAT EC-9 APPRECIATED REASONS FOR US NEGATIVE VOTE AND, WHILE EC-9 VOTED IN FAVOR OF RESOLUTION, THERE WAS NO REAL PROBLEM WITH REGARD TO OUR WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD COMMON PURPOSE.

4. CBS CORRESPONDENT HOTTELET INFORMED US THAT IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH SYG WALDHEIM, THE LATTER INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT BE "RUSHING" INTO TAKING THE STEPS PRESCRIBED IN THE EGYPTIAN RES. WALDHEIM ADDED THAT THERE WERE VARIABLES INVOLVED--NEW US ADMINISTRATION, NEED FOR GREAT CIRCUMSPECTION, AND FACT THAT ONE OF PARTIES, PLO, IS IN STATE OF DISARRAY. HOTTELET ALSO MENTIONED TO GOV. SCRANTON THAT THE US STATEMENT WAS HIGHLY EFFECTIVE AND HIT THE MARK ON BOTH TONE AND SUBSTANCE. NYPOST REPORTER MIKE BERLIN COMMENTED THAT EXPLANATION OF VOTE STATEMENT WAS ESPECIALLY EFFECTIVE. HE ADDED THAT THE RESOLUTION AS WELL AS THE US VOTING HAVE NO REAL IMPACT ON THE PROSPECTS FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE.

5. JAPANESE DEL NOTED THAT "TONE OF GOVERNOR SCRANTON'S SPEECH WAS EXACTLY RIGHT AND THAT IT WENT A LONG WAY TOWARD BLUNTING ANY NEGATIVE EFFECT OF THE US VOTE ITSELF".

SCRANTON

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